

From The Assistant Commissioner...

■ Highlighting OAQ accomplishments in the 2000-2001 fiscal year

June 30, 2001 marked the end of IDEM's fiscal year, and the end of the state biennium. As the year closed, I had the pleasure of reviewing the Office of Air Quality's many accomplishments over the past two years and wanted to use this space to highlight some of them.

- The Indiana Air Pollution Control Board adopted the [nitrogen oxides reduction rule](#). This rule will result in 31% less NOx emissions statewide by 2004, providing significant health and air quality benefits to all our citizens.
- OAQ continues to issue all [construction permits](#) within statutory timeframes. Even though the volume of permit applications and requests for permit modifications continues to increase, we have maintained our commitment to timely permit service, while ensuring that there are opportunities for public input appropriate to the level of public interest in the proposed project.
- OAQ completed the two-year [urban air toxics monitoring project](#). While staff are still working on the evaluation of those data and what they mean for future activities, it was a major accomplishment to collect and analyze samples from more than 15 sites in four urban areas across the state. Those data are available on IDEM's [website](#) for the public to review.
- The Air Pollution Control Board adopted and the agency is implementing the **styrene rule**, which requires significant reductions in the use of this toxic chemical by the reinforced fiberglass industry.
- OAQ completed the longstanding **ozone planning commitments** for southern and northwestern Indiana (federal approval is expected in September).
- OAQ staff completed many **compliance inspections**, witnessed numerous stack tests and reviewed their results, reviewed compliance reports from sources of air emissions and maintained a highly accurate ambient air quality monitoring network.

Our work continues, as the articles in this issue of the Clean Air Bulletin illustrate. We have many challenges for the biennium just begun. With the support and cooperation of citizens and businesses across the state, we will continue our work to make Indiana's air cleaner and healthier to breathe.